

**NEW SMYRNA BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT
NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FLORIDA**

POLICY AND PROCEDURE DIRECTIVE

TITLE: BLUE ALERT

NUMBER: 15-19

EFFECTIVE: 1/20/22

REFERENCE:

RESCINDS/ AMENDS: New

REVISED:

ATTACHMENTS: [FSS 784.071.pdf](#)

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Directive is to establish procedures and guidelines for the activation of the Florida Blue Alert System.

B. DISCUSSION

The guidelines set forth in this directive are not all inclusive and other guidelines may develop as each case occurs. This is a plan to ensure that information will be broadcasted through dynamic highway message signs and other appropriate notification methods to increase the chances of capturing the suspect(s) responsible for injuring or killing a law enforcement officer. The Florida Blue Alert Program is a cooperative effort by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles' Florida Highway Patrol (FHP).

C. POLICY

The safety of our officers and citizens are paramount in accomplishing our mission. It is the policy of this Department to utilize the Florida Blue Alert System when a New Smyrna Beach Police Department (NSBPD) officer is killed, suffered serious bodily injury, or is missing while in the line of duty and the suspect, who is considered to pose an imminent threat to the public, is still at large.

D. DEFINITION

BLUE ALERT – The dissemination of suspect information to the public through the Emergency Alert System by broadcasting the alert on television, radio, and dynamic message signs located along the State's highways as it relates to an officer who has been killed, seriously injured, or missing in the line of duty.

E. PROCEDURE

[Directive 15-19 Blue Alert \(pdf\)](#)

Rev.

15.19.1 Activation Criteria

In accordance with [FSS 784.071](#), to activate a Blue Alert, the following criteria must be met:

1. A law enforcement officer must have been:
 - Seriously injured;
 - Killed by a subject(s); or
 - Become missing while in the line of duty under circumstances causing concern for the law enforcement officer's safety;
2. The suspect has fled the scene of the offense;
3. The law enforcement agency investigating the offense determines that the suspect poses an imminent threat to the public or to other law enforcement officers;
4. A detailed description of the suspect's vehicle, or other means of escape, or the license plate of the suspect's vehicle is available for broadcasting;
5. Dissemination of available information to the public may help avert further harm or assist in the apprehension of the suspect; and
6. If the law enforcement officer is missing, there is sufficient information available relating to the officer's last known location and physical description, and the description of any vehicle involved, including the license plate number or other identifying information, to be broadcast to the public and other law enforcement agencies, which could assist in locating the missing law enforcement officer.
7. The local law enforcement agency of jurisdiction must recommend issuing the Blue Alert.

15.19.2 The officer responding to the scene of an officer killed/injured/missing in the line of duty shall:

1. Respond to the scene quickly and safely
2. Once on scene, conduct a rapid assessment of the situation and secure the scene ensuring it is safe;
3. Call for EMS and provide medical assistance as needed;
4. Secure the incident scene and preserve any physical evidence to the extent reasonably possible;
 - For crime scene purposes, officers are not to disturb the weapons(s) from its final position or unload or change the condition of the weapon as it is found at the scene.
 - Contact immediate supervisor and request additional officers, if necessary.
5. Canvass the immediate area noting possible witnesses, suspects, or victims'
6. Conduct initial interviews and gather as much information as possible regarding suspects(s), vehicle(s), license plate information, etc.

15.19.3 The on-duty supervisor responding to the scene of an officer killed/injured/missing in the line of duty shall:

1. Assess the scene and determine the need for the Detective
2. Notify the On-Call Commanding Officer who will brief the Police Chief of the event. If the Operations Commanding Officer is not available, then notify the Support Services Commanding Officer.
3. Create a crime scene log of personnel who enter/exit the scene and document
4. Coordinate the notification of the officer's family with the chain of command
5. Gather information and assist with the activation of a Blue Alert if the criteria is met; and
6. Contact Volusia Sheriff's Office Communications and provide them:
 - Description and/or identity of the offender, if available

- A detailed description of the suspect(s) vehicle or other means or escape
- Vehicle license plate number or partial number, if available
- Any other information that may assist in helping the public locate the suspect(s)

15.19.4 The investigating officer/detective will call the Florida Fusion Center (FFC) Intelligence Watch and Warning (IWW) at (1-800) 342-0820 or (850) 410-7645 and provide them with the above detailed information for activation.

- A regional FDLE supervisor will work with investigating officer/detective to ensure the activation criteria have been met and offer assistance.

15.19.5 The investigating officer/detective and IWW will prepare information for public release/dissemination, including suspect and/or vehicle information, and:

1. Notify law enforcement agencies throughout the state;
2. Display vehicle information on road signs, lottery machines, and the 511 System; and
3. Activate the Emergency Alert System on the radio and television in the surrounding area.

15.19.6 Follow-up Investigation and Search

The investigating officer/detective will:

1. Obtain any required search warrants and coordinate the search of the identified areas that may contain evidence or the suspect(s);
2. If the suspect(s) is identified and probable cause exists, obtain an arrest warrant for the related charges.

15.19.7 Deactivation Procedures

Upon apprehension, the investigating officer will notify FDLE that the offender(s) has been captured, and FDLE will contact the appropriate parties and cancel the alert.

Rev:

Approved: Signature on File
Chief Mike Coffin